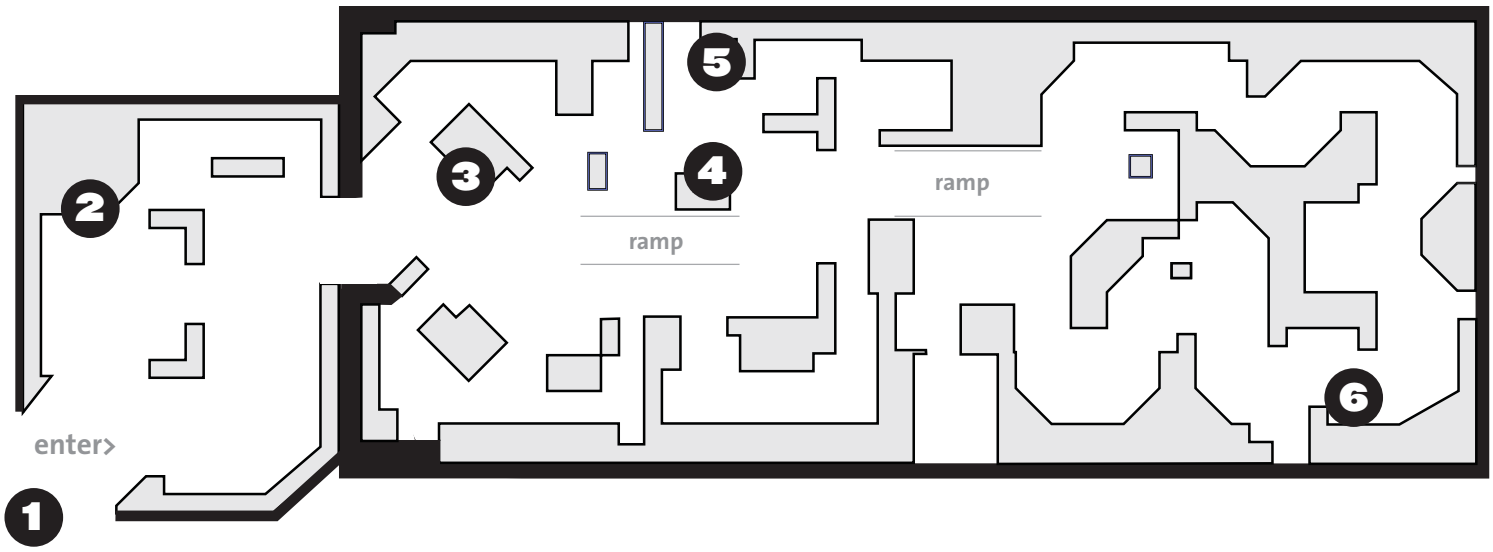
Name: _____ Class Period: _____

Explore Gold and Other Precious Metals in the HALL OF SOUTH AMERICAN PEOPLES

Investigate the symbolisms of gold and other precious metals in South American societies. Record your observations and answer questions on a separate piece of paper or field journal.



1 Gold display case in the Hall of Mexico and Central America

On your way to the Hall of South American Peoples, stop at the central case in the Hall of Mexico and Central America. Take a look at the fine examples of Mixtec, Costa Rican, and Panamanian gold.

Continue straight into the Hall of South American Peoples.

2 Sipán tomb excavation

At the far wall you will see an open-air model of a Sipán tomb excavation from the Moche civilization on Peru's north coast. The Lord of Sipán was buried with remarkable metal work. What objects do you see? What does this burial suggest about how the Moche valued gold and its leaders?

Turn right and walk through the glass doors labeled "Andes and Amazonia."

3 Chavin case

After you walk through the doors, look immediately to your left for the Chavin case. It contains the earliest South American gold in the hall. Describe the gold objects that were found in this burial.

Walk up the ramp and turn immediately to your left.

4 Mining and Smelting/Andean Copper Miner case

Find the photographs of Andean mining sites and a mummified miner. What tools did ancient miners use to crush ore and recover its precious metals? What types of metals were they after?

Turn around and look for the Metallurgy case.

5 Metallurgy case

Explore how Andean peoples turned metal from the Earth into the useful objects on display. Do you think these techniques are still used today? Why or why not? Then turn to your right to explore metal alloys and the role of color. Why do you think gold was alloyed with other metals? Why would metallurgists plate one metal to another? How was color used by these artisans?

Walk into the Indians of Amazonia room. Follow the exhibit to the right until you reach the Tools case, which will be on your right near the Baskets case in the far corner.

6 Tools case in Amazonia room

Explore this case and other objects nearby. Do you see any tools made of metal? What materials did Amazonian Indians use to make tools? What might be some reasons why these cultures did not use metal tools until Europeans introduced them in the 16th century?

Explore More

Find your favorite metal object in the Hall of South American Peoples. Observe it carefully and draw the object. Then answer:

- How old is this object?
- Where was it found?
- What is it made of?
- What was it used for?
- What can you discover about its significance?

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2 Sipán tomb excavation

What objects do you see?

What does this burial suggest about how the Moche valued gold and its leaders?

3 Chavin case

Describe the gold objects that were found in this burial.

4 Mining and Smelting/Andean Copper Miner case

What tools did ancient miners use to crush ore and recover its precious metals?

What types of metals were they after?

5 Metallurgy case

Do you think these techniques are still used today?

Why or why not?

Why do you think gold was alloyed with other metals?

Why would metallurgists plate one metal to another?

How was color used by these artisans?

6 Tools case in Amazonia room

Do you see any tools made of metal?

What materials did Amazonian Indians use to make tools?

What might be some reasons why these cultures did not use metal tools until Europeans introduced them in the 16th century?

NEXT PAGE

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Artifact Analysis Worksheet

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Directions: Choose one specific artifact (object made by a human), and complete the worksheert below. Turn over your worksheet and complete for a different artifact/object.

1.	TYPE OF ARTIFACT Describe the material from which it was made: bone, pottery, metal, wood, stone, leather, glass, paper, cardboard, cotton, plastic, other material.
2.	SPECIAL QUALITIES OF THE ARTIFACT Describe how it looks and feels: shape, color, texture, size, weight, movable parts, anything printed, stamped or written on it.
3.	USES OF THE ARTIFACT A. What might it have been used for? B. Who might have used it? C. Where might it have been used? D. When might it have been used?
4.	WHAT DOES THE ARTIFACT TELL US? A. What does it tell us about technology of the time in which it was made and used? B. What does it tell us about the life and times of the people who made it and used it? C. Can you name a similar item today?
5.	BRING A SKETCH, A PHOTOGRAPH, OR THE ARTIFACT LISTED IN 4C ABOVE TO CLASS.

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Sketch below:

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